



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF MILITARY HISTORY
SPECIAL STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

186 3/19

13 March 1951

Lt. Gen. Walter B. Smith
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

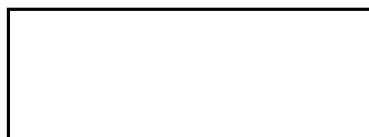
Dear Bedell:

After carefully considering the tender of appointment you made, I have come to the conclusion that it would not be best to accept. There are two basic reasons: first, I do not feel physically capable of undertaking what I conceive to be such an exacting task; second, my experience and contributions in intelligence have been almost entirely outside of the field envisaged.

It is with regret that I am forced to decline for it would be a pleasure to serve with you again.

With all good wishes for success in an assignment of such tremendous importance to our country and with kind personal regards.

Very sincerely,



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